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ABSTRACT

As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This ERIC Digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet. Question Answering services, listservs, and Usenet newsgroups are listed. (Author/AEF)

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An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators
Part II: Question Answering, Listservs, Discussion Groups, Update 1998
ERIC Digest
June 1998

By:

Nancy A. Morgan, updated by Steven Batovsky

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Clearinghouse on Information & Technology

ERIC DIGEST

June 1998 EDO-IR-98-06

An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators Part II: Question Answering, Listservs, Discussion Groups, Update 1998

by Nancy A. Morgan, updated by Steven Batovsky

The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This Digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet.

Question Answering:

The number of services that use electronic mail to deliver information is increasing. Services that teachers will find on the Internet include:

• **AskERIC:** AskERIC is the Internet-based education information service of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) system, headquartered at the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology at Syracuse University. Teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and others involved in education can send a message requesting education information to AskERIC. AskERIC information specialists will respond within 48 hours with ERIC database searches, ERIC Digests, and Internet resources. The benefit of the personalized service is that it allows AskERIC staff to interact with the user, and provide relevant education resources tailored to the user's needs.
- E-mail: askeric@askeric.org

• **AskERIC Virtual Library:** Resources developed from questions received at AskERIC are archived at the AskERIC Virtual Library:
- http://www.askeric.org

•**KidsConnect:** KidsConnect is a question-answering, help and referral service for K-12 students on the Internet. The goal of KidsConnect is to help students access and use the information available on the Internet effectively and efficiently. KidsConnect is a component of ICONnect, a technology initiative of AASL (American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association). Students use e-mail to contact KidsConnect and receive a response from a volunteer library media specialist within two school days.
- E-mail: AskKC@ala.org
- http://www.ala.org/ICONN/kidsconn.html

•**Ask a Young Scientist:** A question answering service for students in grades 1-6 on scientific topics. Questions are researched and answered by advanced chemistry students at Christiansburg High School. Students are asked to limit their questions to five per message, but are encouraged to post as many times as they wish.
- E-mail: apscichs@pen.k12.va.us

• **Ask Dr. Math:** "Ask Dr. Math," a service for elementary, middle, and high school students, is administered by students and professors at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA.
- E-mail: dr.math@forum.swarthmore.edu
- http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/dr-math.html

• **The MAD Scientist Network:** The MAD Scientist Network is an "Ask-A-Scientist" service run entirely on the WWW. They field questions in 25 areas covering chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth sciences, and the biological sciences. More than 500 scientists at institutions around the world have joined their efforts to provide answers to science questions.
- http://www.madsci.org

•**Ask A+ Locator:** The AskA+ Locator is a database of high-quality "AskA" services designed to link students, teachers, parents and other K-12 community members with experts on the Internet. Profiles of each AskA service include identification information (e.g., publisher, e-mail address, contact person, links to services' home pages), scope, target audience, and a general description of the service. Searchable by subject, keyword, grade level, or alphabetical list. Ask A+ Locator is a part of the Virtual Reference Desk.
- http://www.vrd.org/locator/index.html

Listservs:

Listservs are automated programs that serve as distribution centers for mail messages. Listservs focus on a single topic that may be very broad or extremely narrow. People join a listserv by subscribing, then participate by reading messages, or actively contribute by sending messages to the listserv. Below are listservs of special interest to K-12 educators:

ECENET-L: Early childhood education, to age 8.
- To subscribe, send a message to:
listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe ECENET-L your firstname lastname
- Archives: http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives
For more information:
- http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/eece/listserv/ecenet-l.html

EDNET: Internet use in education.
- To subscribe, send message to: listproc@lists.umass.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe EDNET your firstname lastname
- Archives: http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives

Edres-L: Educational Resources on the Internet.
- To subscribe, send message to: listserv@listserv.unb.ca
-Leave the subject line blank.

-In the body of the message, write: subscribe Edres-L your firstname lastname

EdTech: Educational Technology.
- To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@msu.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe Edtech your firstname lastname
- Archives: http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~edweb

K12ADMIN: K-12 educational administration.
- To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@listserv.syr.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe K12 Admin your firstname lastname
- Archives:http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives

KIDLINK: Kidlink Society runs several listservs in support of a global dialog for 10-15 year old students. Subscribe to KIDLINK listserv to receive information about the other lists.
- To subscribe, send a message to:
listserv@listserv.nodak.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: sub Kidlink your firstname lastname
- Archives: http://listserv.nodak.edu/archives/kidlink.html

LM_NET: School library/media services.
- To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@listserv.syr.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe LM_NET your firstname lastname
- Archives: http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives
For more information:
- http://ericir.syr.edu/lm_net/

MIDDLE-L: Education of children 10 to 14 years of age.
- To subscribe, send a message to:
listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write:subscribe Middle-L your firstname lastname
- Archives:http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/
For more information:
- http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/eece/listserv/middle-l.html

NET-HAPPENINGS: Internet related news and announcements.
- To subscribe, send an e-mail message to: listserv@cs.wisc.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe Net-Happenings your firstname lastname
- Archives: http://wwwscout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/net-hap/index.html

SPECED-L: Special education issues discussion.
- To subscribe, send an e-mail message to:
listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write:
subscribe SPECED-L your firstname lastname

TAG-L: General discussion about all topics related to gifted children.
- To subscribe, send e-mail message to:
listserv@listserv.NODAK.EDU
-Leave the subject line blank.
-In the body of the message, write: subscribe Tag-L your firstname lastname

Usenet Newsgroups:

Usenet Newsgroups are an electronic bulletin board system, accessible via the Internet, that consists of discussion forums on literally thousands of topics. Users should contact their system operator for instructions. Some of the Usenet Newsgroups are:
- **k12.chat.teacher**-General discussion between K-12 Teachers
- **k12.ed.art**-Arts and Crafts Education
- **k12.ed.business**-Business Education
- **k12.ed.life-skills**-Life Skills Education
- **k12.ed.math**-Mathematics Education
- **k12.ed.music**-Music and Performing Arts
- **k12.ed.science**-Science Education
- **k12.ed.soc-studies**-Social Studies Education
- **k12.ed.special**-Educating students with special needs
- **k12.ed.tech**-Technology Education

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